



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 22, 2007

I send greetings to all those observing the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Mongolia.

Americans and Mongolians have much in common. Both our nations share traditions of life on the rugged plains. Both our nations have built successful free societies. And both our nations know that our responsibilities to freedom's cause do not end at our own borders. This conviction has inspired the Mongolian people to share the hope of freedom with others who have not known it. The Mongolian Armed Forces have helped make free and democratic society possible for millions in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the United States Armed Forces are proud to serve beside such fearless warriors.

As you help others secure the blessings of liberty and continue the work of building a free society at home, the United States is proud to stand with you. In the 20 years our countries have enjoyed diplomatic relations, you have made the dramatic transition from communism to freedom, established a vibrant democracy, and opened up your economy to trade and prosperity. Your daily efforts are building a better life for your children and grandchildren, and Americans admire your patience and determination. As you continue to undertake political and economic reforms and strengthen your democracy in the heart of Asia, you serve as an example of success for your region and the entire world.

The American people appreciate your courage, value your friendship, and are proud to be thought of as your "third neighbor." Laura and I were honored to visit your beautiful land in 2005, and we have fond memories of your gracious hospitality. As we celebrate this important milestone, we also look to our shared future with trust and optimism. May God bless you all, and may He bless both our wonderful countries.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "George W. Bush".